

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 00955 190700Z

16

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 190652Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2573

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0955

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) SEOUL 1125; B. STATE 029820; C. CANBERRA 0756

1. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR, RO MYUNG, GONG, TOLD EMBOFF FEB 19 THAT AMBASSADOR LO SUK CHAN HAS APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AFTERNOON OF FEB 20, AT WHICH LO WILL TURN OVER AUTOGRAPH COPY OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO WHITLAM ON RECOGNITION QUESTION. GOA HAS HAD COPY OF LETTER SINCE LO GAVE ONE TO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLESEE FEBRUARY 5. GONG ASSUMES AUSTRALIAN REPLY IS ALREADY PREPARED.

2. AMBASSADOR LO HAD CONVERSATION WITH ME FEB 18 AT WHICH HE GAVE US MEMCON OF LO'S MEETING WITH WILLESEE ON FEB 5. MEMORANDUM GIVES FURTHER DETAIL BUT DOES NOT CONTAIN MAJOR NEW INFO ON MEETING BEYOND THAT SUMMARIZED IN REF C. I ASKED LO AS TO ANY INDICATIONS HE HAD ON WHAT HE WOULD DO NEXT. LO ANSWERED IN EFFECT THAT "WE'LL GIVE THE AUSTRALIANS A SCARE," REFERRING TO AUSTRALIANS IN CONTEXT OF ROK THREAT TO WITHDRAW AMBASSADOR (REF C). LO SAID ROK HOPES TO DELAY AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION UNTIL JULY AND IS NOT EXPECTING TO DO MORE THAN HOLD THE LINE TILL THEN. I DID NOT HOLD OUT ANY HOPE THAT MORE COULD BE EXPECTED. I NOTED THAT WE HAD REVIEWED MATTER OF AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AT HIGH LEVELS. LO IS AWARE OF OUR EFFORTS AND THOSE MADE BY FILIPINOS, NEW ZEALANDERS, AND JAPANESE.

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3. REF A CONVEYS MODERATE HOPE THAT AUSTRALIAN DELAY MAY BE IN

PROSPECT, THOUGH OUR CLEAR IMPRESSION HAS BEEN THAT WHITLAM
WANTED TO ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION BEFORE OR SHORTLY AFTER PARLIAMENT
RECONVENES FEB 28.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

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